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SAUL OF TAR SUS
AND OTHER POEMS

SAUL OF TARBUS

AND OTHER POEMS

BY

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“Yet through the labyrinths, not my grovelling wit,
But Thy silk-twist let down from heaven to me,
Did both conduct and teach me, how by it
To climb to Thee.”

GEORGE HERBERT.

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PREFACE.



IT is doubtless the custom to look distrustfully, and, perhaps, distastefully, at new and untried verse. And there is a sufficient warrant for this : it is well that this fairest domain of literature should be jealously guarded against intrusion, and to this end a suspicious scrutiny of all new claims is wholesome and even necessary. It may, however, be fairly assumed that work which is at all worthy, and worthily directed, will not be altogether in vain, but will bring forth fruit according to the vitality that is in it ; and to this unfailing test the work of the following pages contentedly seeks to be submitted.

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SAUL OF TARSUS.

SAUL of Tarsus, silently,
With a silent company,
To Damascus' gates drew nigh.

Through the heat of the midday,
Recking not of rest or stay,
Fixedly he took his way.

The concentrate sunshine smote
From the heaven's furnace-throat
Fiercely, but he heeded not ;

For more fiercely in his breast
Burned the vehement unrest
Which impelled him in his quest.

And his quest was one of dread,
As the eagle's hungry speed
Towards the place where young flocks feed.

And his eyes, too, and his mien
Were, as are the eagle's, keen ;
All the man was aquiline.

O thou spirit swift and clear,
Strong to strengthen and to cheer
Hearts that droop or fail thro' fear ;

Wherefore dost thou rather seek
The accursèd tyranny to wreak
Of the strong upon the weak ?

Accuser of thy brethren slain,
Can thy quick conscience bear the stain,
The fratricidal brand of Cain ?

Art thou so strong to bear this load ?
He answers, faring on the road—
“ I go to do the will of God.

“The will of God is in His law,
Revealed there in perfect awe
Of righteousness, and without flaw

“I have kept all this from my youth,
Herein alone is final truth,
For scorn of this there is no ruth.

“And a false prophet rose, who taught
The sin-enslaved to set at naught
The law’s interpreters ; who sought

“To darken and displace with wild
Imaginings, his gospel styled,
The law’s pure glory undefiled ;

“Whose strange false doctrine would efface
God’s favour to His chosen race,
And with His enemies them abase ;

“Who yet declared himself the great
Messiah, whom we supplicate
With patient longing at Heaven’s gate ;

“ Claiming to be to God allied,
And one with Him ; howbeit he died,
By a just judgment crucified.

“ He styled himself a Kingdom’s head ;
It was not of this world, he said—
There he spake truly—he is dead.

“ But these his followers, with strange lies,
Proclaim that he from death did rise,
And, after, into Paradise.

“ So he in these is clamorous still,
This noise of him I fain would kill,
And seeking this I seek God’s will.

“ And I am blessed in doing this,
For unto God their blasphemies
Are hateful, and my hate is His.”

So Saul of Tarsus, silently
Musing beneath the burning sky,
To Damascus’ gates drew nigh.

O fateful moments, as your flight,
Invading still the onward night,
Bringeth its hidden things to light ;

In what supreme event of fate,
What mastery of love o'er hate,
Do ye now swiftly culminate?

What mighty work must now be wrought,
With ever-widening import fraught,
What unknown good cometh unsought ?

For suddenly a great light shone,
Above the brightness of the sun,
Enfolding all the dazzling noon.

And straightway all, before the might
And awful inquest of that light,
Fell to the earth in dumb affright ;

Seeking to shroud their dazed sense
From the terribly intense
Presence of Omnipotence.

And a voice with double fear
Troubled them, which all might hear,
But which to one alone was clear.

The voice came to him, lying low,
"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou
Me?"—and the question pierced him thro'.

"'Tis hard for thee the goad to spurn."
How did the mystic language burn,
With instant power his heart to turn!

For that sure, spirit-searching tone,
As of one questioning his own,
Unheard before, seemed not unknown.

But fettered by the dazzling dread,
Uplifting not his earth-bowed head,
"Who art Thou, Lord?" he darkly said.

Again the awful sound did flow—
"I am Jesus, he whom thou
Persecutest; but rise now,

“ And hence into the city go,
What thou must do thou there shalt know.”
The voice and vision ended so.

Pierced with the quick and powerful word,
As with a sudden two-edged sword,
Blind with the glory of the Lord,

As one arises from a bed
Of mortal strife, scarce rescued,
Who thought to have been borne thence dead,

So he arose all tremulously,
The strongest erst of heart and eye,
Now darkling 'neath the noonday sky ;

Reft of all headship and command,
The leader of that awe-struck band,
Led slowly onward by the hand,

So passes through the city's gate,
Towards which erewhile, like a dark fate,
He moved as death insatiate.

* * * * *

Through three blank days and nights, which made
One only night of unpierced shade,
In solitude he, fasting, prayed.

When, lo ! a vision blessed his night
Of one who came with power to light
Body and soul with longed-for sight.

No voice of doom, whose judgment due
The conscious heart, though forced to rue
As fatal, must revere as true ;

But graced with blessing from on high
Of that eternal love, whereby
The far-off sinner is made nigh.

And soon, as in the vision fair,
The servant of the Lord was there,
His Master's purpose to declare ;

At bidding of the most High sent,
Albeit in wistful wonderment,
Well knowing unto whom he went ;

So that, when bidden at first to go,
He had made answer—"Lord, I know
This man brings hither only woe ;

"Even as at Jerusalem
His presence was a slaughterous flame,
So, all that here call on Thy name,

"He comes, with like authority,
To bind for death." "Go thou, for he,"
The Lord replied, "is chosen of me,

"My minister, whom I prepare,
To Gentiles and their kings afar,
And Israel's sons my name to bear ;

"And what things he shall suffer so,
My witness, I to him will show ;
Behold, he prayeth ; rise and go."

Then the disciple instantly,
Endued with power from on high,
Went gladly, though still wonderingly,

To where, expectant and alone,
Filled with the vision newly gone,
Waited the once so dreaded one.

And with dear greeting—"Brother Saul,"
(How fairly linked did the name fall,
Erewhile of bitterness and gall !)

He gently spake—"the Lord, even He,
Jesus who hath appeared to thee,
On the way hither, hath sent me

"That thou mayest now receive thy sight,
And with the Holy Spirit's light
Thou mayest be filled." Forthwith the blight,

As it were scales, fell from his eyes ;
He looked up with a glad surprise,
And with an answering gladness, "Rise,"

The other said,—“Why tarriest thou ?
Arise and be baptizèd now.”
And he arose with radiant brow.

He saw,—but evermore his sight
In weakness witnessed to the might
Of that supreme, all-darkening light.

And ever the soul-trancing spell
Held him, of the Invisible,
Whence that arresting glory fell.

PAUL THE AGED.

By storm and travail marred and bent,
In a dim Roman dungeon pent,
Guarded and chained, and well content

To suffer as his Lord should list ;
The prisoner now of Jesus Christ,
His servant and evangelist,

And chief apostle—lo ! the man,
Who in misdeeming rage once ran,
Intent to thwart his Master's plan ;

The plan wherein God's righteousness
Is one with man's immortal peace,
And truth and mercy blend to bless ;

Whose all-surrounding law of grace
All other blessing doth embrace,
All condemnation doth efface ;

Which, prefixed from eternity,
Dwelt in the mind of Deity,
Veiled in the triune Mystery ;

Yet whereof sure foreshadowings,
And mystic hints in transient things,
And bright prophetic visionings,

As God ordained, glimmered and shone
With far-off brightness of unknown
Yet gladdening day ; in unison

With sacrificial types that bled
Continually, and witnessèd
Ever of One, whose blood once shed

Should purify eternally ;—
So the mysterious harmony
Of offering, type, and prophecy,

Converging all in various wise,
Met in the perfect sacrifice,
Whereby God's justice justifies

All who with sincere heart would win
The freedom only found therein
From the abhorrèd yoke of sin ;

And who, being freely justified,
Are seen as wholly sanctified,
Yea, as already glorified

Thro' that one yielded life—O plan
Of forfeit Paradise to man
More than regained ! the primal ban .

Of terror, " Thou shalt surely die,"
Changed to a certain hope thereby
Of glorious immortality ;

High mystery, to none revealed
As unto him who blindly reeled,
When the light shone and the voice pealed ;

His slaughter-breathing enmity
Slain, and his being utterly
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Since then his weariless employ
Has been to preach, as his chief joy,
The faith he laboured to destroy ;

Ever by this one aim controlled,
Thro' hunger and thirst, and heat and cold,
Thro' toils and perils manifold ;

Perils by land, perils by sea,
False brotherhood and treachery,
Prisons and stripes abundantly ;

Through perils of the wilderness
And of the city ; weariness,
And watchfulness, and painfulness ;

Through Jews' and Gentiles' violence,
Even unto death ; only from thence
Recovered by Omnipotence.

So God hath shown him how great things
He should endure, what sufferings
For His name's sake ; in such wise springs

The rank and dignity of those
On whom His honours God bestows ;—
And now behold him in life's close,

His business on Time's fluctuant sea
Nigh done, and nearing gratefully
The haven where he fain would be ;

Pursued and stricken to the last
By persecution's clamorous blast,
His sky now wholly overcast

With menace of impending doom,
Yet ever the surrounding gloom
Enlightened with the joy to come ;

The spirit-light, undimmed, unspent,
Amid all dark environment,
Thro' evermore replenishment

From the eternal fount of Light,
The glory whither his soul's sight
Turns ever ; from that secret height

Drawing such strength that, thro' the range
Of earthly trial and mortal change,
For him is nothing feared or strange ;

Being one with Him whose will is fate,
He is fate's friend, and every state
Hath joy which nothing can abate.

And in this dungeon harsh and dim
His ministers are seraphim,
And he is visited of Him,

Who in His travail was alone,
Who sorrowed thus that to His own
Never such sorrow might be known.

So cheered He the chill solitude,
Wherein His prisoner now reviewed
The lightly summoned past, and rued

Once more the far-off injury,
Done darkly unto those whom he
Now held in dearest unity.

And once again before him shone
(How loved) the glorious face of one,
Smitten to death with stone on stone ;

The grace of whose prevailing prayer
Even in himself (such grace was there)
Such unexpected fruit should bear.

And all his chastened spirit blessed
The mercy, whose redeeming quest
Had stayed him with its bright arrest ;

The love till then unknown, unthought,
'Gainst which he ignorantly fought,
Which kept him, and he knew it not ;

Whereon, since then, thro' every scene
Of all the vivid years between,
He hath had grace wholly to lean ;

The love whose sweet almightiness
No other might can dispossess,
Which, blessing once, doth ever bless ;

Which, thro' the years' transforming flight,
An outward shield and inward light,
Had borne him on from might to might,

Thro' scenes whose many memories,
Perils, and pains, and victories
Now passed before his inward eyes ;—

The blind and fickle turbulence,
Easily swayed to swift offence,
Of Gentile crowds ; the reverence

Of sacrifice, hard to restrain,
Offered at Lystra, changed amain
To reckless rage and murder's stain ;

The wild Ephesian storm and cry,
Resounding long and angrily,
From hearts and throats that knew not why ;

The shameful durance and despite
Done at Philippi ; that great night
Of terror, with its sequel bright ;

The mockery that broke ere long,
Their beauteous shapes and shrines among,
From the amused Athenian throng,

What time they heard the God Unknown,
Unimaged, darkly guessed alone,
Proclaimed the true and only One ;

His all-commanding Gospel-call,
And One declared the Judge of all,
Whom He from death did disenthral.

And deeper than all else the hate,
Which still pursued or lay in wait,
Implacable, insatiate,

Of his own countrymen, whose rage
His death had failed not to assuage,
But for the guardian heritage

Wherewith his God had fenced him,—then
The claim held highest among men,—
“I am a Roman citizen.”

So he, amid all enmity,
Hath been made strong invincibly,
And sure amid all subtlety

Of the conspiring powers of hell,
Which wrought with many a thwarting spell,
Intangible, inscrutable,

Ever to ruin and despoil,
With stealthy blight or wild turmoil,
The harvest of his prospered toil.

And though the Gospel's golden sound
Such dissonant response oft found,
Altho' at first the alien ground

Seemed but with thorny perils rife,
Yet ever, from the threatening strife,
Sprang the most blessed fruit of life ;

A glorious birth which surely grew,
A new-felt bond, most dear and true,
With Him who maketh all things new ;

A fellowship which he, who bare
The precious seed, was graced to share,
Henceforth his joy, and crown, and care.

All this and all else in review
He pondered now, and in all knew
The love that led him hitherto ;

The love which lasting joy could bring
From transitory suffering,
Making defect a glorying ;

Whose soul-deep harmony hath been
Heard ever through the mortal screen,
Whose heartfelt beauty ever seen.

And now, immanacled, immured,
He waits, victoriously assured
That having hitherto endured

He has endured unto the end,
That all things, that did hither tend,
In perfect good now meet and blend.

Now is he ready to depart,
His spirit lightly winged to start,
Whither so long hath been his heart.

The good fight now is fought and won,
The course is finished, rightly run,
And naught remaineth to be done,

Save that the outworn instrument,
Whose energies were gladly spent
In sacrifice to God's intent,

And of His grace had well sufficed,
Should now itself be sacrificed ;
The prisoner so of Jesus Christ

Changed instantly, in glorious wise,
To His dear guest in Paradise,
Blessed with the welcome of His eyes ;

Expectant of that crowning height
Of glory, whither His sure might
Shall lead all those that love His light.

WITHIN THE VEIL.

HERE, clouds of mutability
Sweep strangely o'er the heart ;
Hopes, brightly born, in darkness die,
Joys glimmer and depart ;
Life's pleasant promise fadeth fast,
Gone like a fair-told tale,
But change no more its shade shall cast
Within the veil.

How happily doth friendship move
The ready heart and tongue ;
How dear the ministry of love
In life's oblivion young ;
Here night must close o'er friendship's day,
And love its loss bewail,
But these shall live unvext for aye
Within the veil.

The world is full of beauty ;—yes,
In earth, and sea, and sky,
Grandeur and beauty meet and bless
The seeing heart and eye ;
Types of the high invisible
In forms that change and fail,
Whose fair ideals fadeless dwell
Within the veil.

Within the veil ! within the veil !
What mean the mystic words,
Which move, as with a heavenly gale,
The heart's responsive chords ?
How do they greet the hearing ear
With inmost melody,
Telling the soul glad tidings here
Of bliss to be.

O dark-bright meaning, only taught
In part of God to men !
Unsearched by Sage's deepest thought,
Or Poet's clearest ken ;

Beyond conception's depth and height^{er}
Thy joys prophetic shine,
Faith's certain rest, Love's full delight,
Hope's dream divine.

For there, in vision of their God,
The pure in heart are blest ;
And they, who here in travail trod
Earth's alien ways, have rest ;
Who thirsted here for righteousness
There at the fountain-head
Are filled ; and there the comfortless
Are comforted.

O happy place He doth prepare,
He whom our soul loves well ;
O fulness of all blessing, there,
Ever with Him to dwell ;
His joy, to which all else is dim,
Fully to apprehend,
Inseparably one with Him
World without end !

O highest hope ! O sacred goal !
Seen of faith's heaven-lit eye,
To bear that image which the soul
Alone can satisfy ;
With ever-during strength made glad
Of perfect sanctitude,
In raiment of His beauty clad,
Wholly renewed.

There too the starry sons of light,
Serenely strong and pure,
In all-harmonious grace and might
Immortally endure ;
God's heralds, swift and weariless,
Who at His bidding speed,
To execute all righteousness
By Him decreed.

And in the stainless atmosphere
Of that undarkening day
(O heavenly grace such grace to peer !)
We shall be even as they ;

Mingling among the glorious throng
In blest society,
Undimmed by any shade of wrong
Or frailty.

What heights of knowledge shall we reach,
Unvexed by failing force ;
What harmonies of heavenly speech,
And happy intercourse ;
What soul-knit friendship then shall be,
Fearless of fault or flaw,
Free in the perfect liberty
Of love's sure law !

What high employments shall be ours,
What aspirations gained,
What glad activity of powers
Unwearying, unrestrained ;
What certain motions of quick thought
And clear intelligence,
What perfect service, marred by naught
Of wandering sense !

For not in rest or calm delight
The spirit so endued
Shall reach its great salvation's height,
Its full beatitude ;
Then shall be known the higher bliss
Of the deep-meaning word—
“ His servants shall serve Him ”—to this
Lead us, O Lord !

Perchance with seraphs, that excel
In mighty harmony,
In soaring rapture we shall swell
The praise of the Most High ;
Perchance our King's commands shall bear
Thro' worlds afar, unknown,
Doing His will which everywhere
Shall aye be done.

What wondrous joy perchance to sweep,
Filled with sustaining might,
Sure-traversing the distant deep,
As on the wings of light ;

Fearless of thwarting force to speed
On some unfailing quest,
Where'er the Omnipotent shall lead
With clear behest !

O full and glorious liberty
Wherein, in filial love,
The sons of God immutably
Shall serve, and live, and move !
O high aspiring, can it be
That thou shalt be attained,
Shall the swift spirit be made free,
Now sorely chained !

O happy prospect, when we climb
Faith's secret mountain-height,
And see, far o'er the mists of time,
The inheritance of light ;
In glorious vision, far away,
The sacred city gleams,
Withdrawn in endless depths of day,
How bright it seems !

But darkly, vaguely, we express
The bright invisible ;
The beauty of that holiness
In vain we seek to tell ;
Howbeit, when heart and flesh shall fail,
The unseen shall appear
Within the veil, within the veil,
In radiance clear !

"IN HIS SIGHT."

O THOU ! whose instant view
Doth traverse, thro' and thro',
The eternal years, ranged in procession due ;

Who seest at once the source,
The swerveless, changeful course,
And certain goal of the seen universe ;

To whose Omniscient sight
The unknown infinite
Is bare and bounded, and its darkness light ;

Inevitable Eye !
To whose great purity
Seemeth not pure the stainless starry sky ;

Dread Light ! how can it be
That Thou shouldst beat on me,
And no least spot nor marring blemish see ?

For I am darkly pent
In a frail tenement,
Whose fault and failure ever I lament ;

And, though my wavering will
Is fain to do Thine still,
Yet to do this aright I cannot skill.

Thou only dost delight
In what is wholly right,
Only the perfect is "good in Thy sight."

How shall I, frailest, then
Of the frail sons of men,
Be just and perfect to Thy perfect ken ?

O thought, that awes and fills
The wondering mind, and thrills
With sacred gladness, and all questioning stills !

O God ! Thou seest me,
Not in my frailty,
But as Thou wilt that I one day shall be.

For lo ! Thou seest me
Pure in the purity
Of Him who died that I like Him might be.

And in that light divine
(O love's supreme design !)
Thou bidd'st the darkling soul arise and shine.

And in His beauty, there,
Thou seest it wholly fair,
The rightful heir of Thee, with Him joint-heir.

O sacred unity !
O dear identity !
Our present rest and glorious prophecy ;

For Thou dost give, even herè,
Faith's vision high and clear,
Which finds in unseen things its natural sphere ;

Which seeth, from afar,
Its home, like a fair star,
Wherein it knows all heights of blessing are.

And Hope Thou giv'st, which hears
Faith's glad report, and cheers
The soul therewith through all the troublous years.

And, greatest of these three,
Thou givest Charity,
Whose sacred flame, being Thine, must ever be.

Hail, Heaven-descended gift
Of Faith, which can uplift
The soul to its own home with rapture swift !

Hail, Hope, whose lucid ray
Shall cheer us till the day
Break, and the Time-cast shadows flee away !

Till we, made wholly free
In thy glad liberty,
Shall ever live and move, O Love, in thee !

And with unfaltering sight,
Thro' thine immortal might,
We shall rejoice in that dread, perfect Light.

THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

O SEA ! whose sounding tides, successively,
Moved by the myriad beatings of the heart,
Are lost, each a mere tributary part,
In silence of that other, vaster sea,
Whose tideless waters freeze unchangingly ;

Ocean of Life ! whose many voices swell
O'er silent underworlds of hope and fear,
Or sink in murmurs of foreboding drear,
What may we know of thee, unsearchable
In thy great deeps ; what tidings dost thou tell ?

Ever, with eye, and ear, and thought intent,
Man seeks to fathom thee ; his line doth sound
Deeper and deeper, but no rest is found ;
And of the mingling voices from thee sent
Of peace and gladness, passion and lament,

He asks thy secret ;—whence thou issuest,
And whither, if any-whither, thou dost go ;
The ordered limits of thine ebb and flow,
The pathos and the rhythm of thine unrest,
He sees and hears ; but answer to his quest

He finds not ; though with all-recording brain,
Eager to pierce the shrouded secrecy,
He searches through life's various history,
Yet ever the eluding truth makes vain
And mocks his keenest search with futile pain.

And some say wearily—"We cannot tell,
And ask no more, wherefore we live and die ;
We question not of whither, whence, or why—
In calm indifference alone doth dwell
Rest from the unknown and unknowable."

O rest, that eases not ! while the true rest
Remaineth ever in the perfect life
Of oneness with God's will ! here ends all strife,
Here the missed joy, that could all other quest
Elude, is found and verily possessed.

Rest in the will of God ! but whence is clear
What is His will ? is it not wholly dim,
The silent record Nature bears of Him,
Seemeth He not, in things that now appear,
Aloof from man, far-hidden and severe ?

Is not His will seen only in the reign
Of rigorous law, which tries the harmony
Of all things with itself unerringly,
To what endureth bringing strength and gain,
To failure and to frailty loss and pain ?

And is it not in all things evermore
Being fulfilled ? on all consummate fact
Stamped legibly ; wrought surely in each act,
Proclaimed, as in her silence, in the roar
Of Nature's forces striving in wild war ?

And are not oft these forces, suddenly,
Changed to a host of terrors, which unite
In discord of destruction their wild might ?
In such a power of unpierced mystery
What certain rest or tranquil trust can be ?

Were He all-loving would not then the weight
Of the world's sorrow, weighing on His love,
Constrain Him, being all-mighty, to remove
The ~~w~~helming load ? would He not regulate,
Were He all-just, the injustice of man's fate ?

So, seeing life's thralldom and inconstancy,
Some darkly ask of Him, whose one control
Governs all life ; who sees at once the whole
In mass and detail, whereof we now see
But the least part, and that confusedly.

His power and Godhead verily are shown
In things that veil His will and purposes,
Though oft is rent the transient veil of these,
And gracious gleamings, thro' the darkness strown,
Tell of a glory higher and unknown.

Wisdom thro' all creation uttereth speech ;
Though discords mar the mighty harmony
Man hears and marks the certain unity,
But the great meaning is beyond the reach
Of any lore that Nature's self can teach.

But even from that which Nature doth reveal,
Her ordered majesty, her righteous rod,
Her beauty and terror, we believe in God ;
Yea, that He is the heart doth know and feel,
Albeit to Him there seemeth no appeal.

But burdened with despair is this dark faith
To those who find no grace in Nature's sight ;
For weakness hath no mercy from her might,
Its root was error and its fruit is death,
Oh, sorrow ! better to have ne'er drawn breath

If Nature's forces and their agency
Be all His working, and their voice His speech,
But lo ! another voice doth gently reach
The far depths of the spirit, saying—" Ye
Believe in God, believe also in me."

O fair completion of the high truth taught
By universal nature, that He is ;—
O higher revelation, crowning this
With the full utterance of His will and thought
To usward, with what peace and kindness fraught !

But who is he that saith—"Believe in me,"
Who is he that in him we should believe?
The sorrow of life and death can he bereave,
Lightening the burden and the mystery,
Life's mourning and death's dumbness;—who is he?

His words are written and for aye remain,
Unfathomably deep, divinely clear;
He that hath ears to hear, oh, let him hear
The living words that make life's meaning plain,
Resolving all the riddle of its pain.

Yet hear Himself; from all defilement free,
Drink at the fount of the pure water of Life,
Untroubled by the stream of human strife,
Unfouled, unmixed, by fraud and tyranny,
Which take His name with various mockery.

Oh, folly and shame of men, to count as His
The falsehood that would fain His truth misuse!
Oh, strange, injurious error to confuse
Him with the misdeeds of His enemies,
Which His own word with instant judgment tries!

And, even as do His words, His works remain ;—
Where'er faith, hope, and charity abide,
Where shame, and wrong, and violence, and pride
Are smitten and silenced, and the sheltering reign
Of righteousness extends with widening gain ;—

Where'er the dark, the blind, the halt, the lame,
Are helped and guided into Hope's glad light ;
Where'er in gracious ministry unite
Patience, and skill, and love, with healing aim ;—
Yea, even where those who call not on His name,

In all that moveth them of good and great,
Are moved by His surrounding influence,
And in strange rivalry, misdeeming whence
Their virtue is, the virtue emulate
Of those who own Him Lord and on Him wait ;—

Where'er hath been the power, whose suffering might
No might of tyranny could overcome,
The voice no persecution could make dumb ;
Whose vainly-smitten force could rather smite
Oppression's self with sure-consuming blight ;—

Where'er in loving quest, afar or near,
Thro' gloom and peril the lost sheep are sought ;
And if these to the one fold may be brought,
Dear lives, of other lives the light and cheer,
Are yielded freely, reckoned not as dear ;—

Or where, sore-toiled, along life's wearisome
And difficult ways a lowly heart doth move,
Yet lifteth filial eyes of trust and love
Unto the hills, from whence its help doth come ;
Unto the hills, where lies its certain home ;

Though chastened here perchance incessantly,
Yet in serene appeal can gladly turn,
From the law's lower action harsh and stern,
Unto the higher law that maketh free,
And find therein all grace and liberty ;—

These are His works in part, seen partly here,
In orderly procession moving still
In a serene accordance with God's will,
But when these are accomplished shall appear
His gracious work in consummation clear ;

When, in the full assembly of His own,
 Joined in indissoluble brotherhood
 By the dear bond of His atoning blood,
His full achievement shall be seen and known;
His Kingdom, power, and glory shall be shown.

This is His highest work ; to this great height
 How dearly wrought, what time as man He moved,
 Unwelcomed, unbelieved, and unbeloved,
Save by the hearts to which the Sovereign light
Revealed Him, full of grace, and truth, and might ;

Thro' mortal ways, untouched by mortal stain,
 Passing in meekness of self-sacrifice ;
 Dying, scorn-laden, as a felon dies,
Enduring and despising shame and pain
The joy of man's salvation to attain ;

Being made perfect so thro' suffering
 That with all suffering He might sympathize,
 Yea, of all sorrows and all maladies
That o'er this life their awful shadows fling,
As of all health and gladness, He is King.

“ All ye whq labour, laden heavily,
Come unto me, and I will give you rest.”
“ Come unto me,”—O words, the winsomest
Heard ever, sounding thro’ mortality, .
Till we at length shall come eternally !

Here is creation’s final harmony,
The blending of the human and divine ;
Here is the purpose of life’s discipline,
Its else impenetrable mystery
Enlightened with clear shining from on high.

Wherefore to us the voice is not in vain
Which reasoneth as with sons—“ Despise not thou
The chastening of the Lord,” which seemeth now
Grievous, but yieldeth everlasting gain
Of peace and righteousness, thro’ transient pain ;

Thro’ light affliction an eternal weight
Of glory, where the full life of the soul,
Aspiring ever to this longed-for goal,
Shall in His glorious likeness culminate,
Who is Himself the Life, immortal, uncreate.

*"FOR THY PLEASURE THEY ARE
AND WERE CREATED."*

THE soul that resteth in the perfect will
Of the Divine, and in that harmony
Knows all the waves and billows of life's sea
Obedient to the Master's "Peace, be still,"

Will ever joy in all things pure and fair,
His handiwork ; and sure society
I'or such in Nature's solitudes will be,
Being finely touched her fellowship to share ;

Will find a kindred spirit in the breeze
That moves on wings of healing o'er the hills,
Will gladden in the gladness of the rills,
And listen to the language of the trees ;

Or share the joyance, wild and wonderful,
 Rained from the skylark's heaven-invading flight ;
 Or join in spirit in the swift delight
Of swallows, fleeting o'er some shadowed pool ;

So Nature unto those who love her true,
 Returning in o'ermeasure all their love,
 Ministers gladness ; as on field and grove
The sure refreshing falls of her sweet dew.

And may we not of the Creative Mind
 Deem as delighting oft, for its own sake,
 In the pure beauty which Himself did make,
For His and its own joy alone designed ?

For oft, in some far solitary place,
 A brighter beauty than the eye of man
 In any of his fairest haunts may scan
Makes glad the wilderness ; as where the grace

Of flowery hosts and blossoms infinite
 Grows bright and dim 'mid mountain solitudes,
 Or sunny spaces of untrodden woods,
Among whose blooms and fragrance poise and flit,

Wondrous alike in stillness and in flight,
Far-flashing like the walls of Paradise,
In splendour of all gorgeous harmonies,
The restless living jewellery of light ;

Now rifling all the floral treasury
They hang in air, seemingly motionless
From the swift wings' invisible excess
Of swiftness ; and now, shooting suddenly,

Flashing and sparkling in aërial speed,
Startling and vanishing in glorious gleams,
Too swift for sight the vivid splendour streams ;
A heaven-emblazoned page it seems, unread.

But the Most High is in the solitude,
Rejoicing there and making it rejoice,
And from the general gladness comes a voice,—
"Thou madest us as seemèd to Thee good."

"Thou hast created all in unity,
Thy witnesses, O Lord, are everywhere,
And for Thy pleasure all things are and were
Created, and all laud and worship Thee !"

Such gladness o'er the world is scattered wide,
If this sin-burdened earth be lightened so,
What, then, shall be the joyance it shall know
When righteousness shall rule on every side ;

When the new heavens o'er the new earth shall smile,
And perfect love in perfect law shall reign,
And naught of blight or sorrow shall remain
The everlasting freshness to defile.

THE SKYLARK'S TALE.

TIME was when I could only flutter and flit
About the green earth's bosom, nor from it
 Rose higher than the throstle or the jay,
 The dauntless sparrow or the goldfinch gay,
The quarrelous robin or the busy tit.

And sometimes when I heard the music strong,
Sent from the darkling nightingale among
 The trembling leaves, so swift, and loud, and clear,
 I longèd that high melody to peer,
For then to chirp and twitter was all my song.

And often with desire my heart upflew
To lose itself in the far heavenly blue,
 To travel, in the breeze's company,
 Freely along the deep fields of the sky,
And see what flowers amid that glory grew.

And on a morn, when the young life of Spring
Beat with a pulse of joy in everything,
 Pricked by the power and pleasance of the May,
Methought the shining heaven I would assay
To climb with all my little might of wing.

So I uprose, with fluttering heart the while,
Lured ever onward by the deep blue smile,
 The sky's fair promising ; until my flight
 Had risen to the highest tree-tops' height ;
Meseemèd I had flown at least a mile.

Then I looked down, and though my heart did yearn
Higher to climb, methought I must return,
 When suddenly, me and the earth between,
 There shone a mighty wing with glorious sheen ;
Never did neck of dove so shine and burn.

And then I was aware that there were twain,
Whose breadth and beauty lightly did sustain
 A form of heavenly grace angelical,
 Of most sweet visage and majestic,al,
Clear as the sky new-cleansèd by the rain.

So that bright barrier stopped my earthward way ;
With voice more sweet than any sound of May
The angel spake anon—" Wilt thou with me
Thro' the far heaven to travel loftily,
Or wilt thou downward to the green earth stray ? "

Then I made answer freely, for my dread
Was gone at his great grace and goodlihead,—
" Truly the kindly earth I chiefly love,
Tho' through the heaven I would right gladly rove,
If thither I may return unto my bed."

Thereat, over the brightness of his face,
A smiling passed which gave thereto more grace,
" And if thou wilt," he said, " thou now shalt come
With me unto the threshold of my home
And back to thy loved earth in little space."

Then said I—" To that fair far region,
If that I may return ere set of sun,
I fain would go,—else would I not at all."
And he made answer—" Ere this night shall fall
Thither and thence thy journey shall be done."

So saying he waved his wings, which mightily
Flashed, like a golden torrent, thro' the sky,
 And with an instant speeding did upspring
 Thro' the clear heaven ; the while, beneath his wing,
I nestled unafraid,—such trust had I.

So sped we till the earth was lost to view,
The sunlight waned and failed, and swift we flew
 Thro' a fair twilight to a starry night
 Of glistening beauty, where all silver-white
The wondrous wings shone in the deep dark blue.

Till suddenly another light 'gan rise,
Fairer than any dawn of earthly skies,
 Which swiftly grew till all was dazzling day,
 Gloriously tinct with many a heaven-hued ray
Sent from the far-seen heights of Paradise.

And thitherward, with gently slackened wing,
The angel sailed ; and from the sheltering,
 Secure and tranquil, of those pinions wide,
 I saw the glory I might not else abide,
Attempered by their mild o'ershadowing.

And as we neared the gates, whereof each one,
In dazzling height, with whitest lustre shone,
 There came thereout a waft of melody
 So sweet, that I right willingly would die,
Ravisht, and lapped, and lost in that sweet tone.

And blissful-beaming shapes all-beauteous
We met, that all-so fairly greeted us,
 With such bright welcome, that I longed to be
 For ever of their blest society,
To sing with them in service duteous.

But that great glory wherein they abide
I might endure not ;—soon then said my guide—
 “ Lo, now, to thee, who fain wouldst climb heaven's
 height,
Hath been vouchsafed to see this City of light
Which with eternal joy is glorified.

“ And, as I promised, now unto thy rest
Thou shall return, on the earth thou lovest best,
 And where most fitting is that thou shouldst dwell,
 But evermore thou shalt remember well
What thou hast seen and heard in this far quest.”

So he wheeled round, and from the city then
Sailed, as whilere, with stedfast-cleaving pen ;
 And with so swift and certain flight we sped,
 The welkin with the westering sun was red
Of the same day, when the earth appeared in ken.

And whenas we drew near, from a great height
Which erewhile would have filled me with affright,
 He shook me from his wing full lightsomely,
 And with a bright farewell, among the sky,
Like to a shooting star, was lost to sight.

Then found I that I could, as I might please,
Or fleet, or soar, or sink, with joyous ease ;
 And somewhat of that highest, heaven-sweet strain
 I might tell forth, that filled my heart and brain,
Strewing afar the gladness on the breeze.

And from that time forth, ever as I may,
Towards that far glory do I wing my way,
 And that immortal music to repeat,
 Which I heard welling from the golden street,
With all my minstrelsy I now assay.

L'Envoy.

My little tale is eke a parable
Whose meaning is full simple and plain to spell ;
 How highest Heaven its wingèd grace will lend
 To lowly hearts that thither would ascend,
And them of its melodious lore will tell.

THE SOUTH DOWNS.

How truly the wise poet sings,—
“ Sweet is the lore which Nature brings ” ;
What newness of delight is born,
 What “ pleasure free and unproved,” *
Of the unfading beauty worn
 Ever by you, O hills beloved !
What joy to the toiled heart awhile
 To leave the vexing strain and strife,
 The dusty heat and pain of life,
To wander 'neath the welcoming smile,
 The benediction of your sky,
 To let the gracious harmony
Of æry song and rustling trees

* “ In unproved pleasures free.”

MILTON, *L'Allegro*.

Gladden the heart, and ear, and eye,
And sink into the memory
Fraught with a future power to please ;
To join in Nature's genial mirth
And to inherit so the earth.

O hills beloved, altho' ye rise
To no Alpine sublimities,
Altho' your crests ye do not rear
Into a frosty atmosphere,
How do ye stretch, with glorious sweep,
In mighty curve and clear outline,
With gradual slope and sudden steep,
In undulation far and fine !
The sweetest airs of land and sea
Ever around and o'er you play,
Making you sweet and fresh as they
With their immortal purity.
Altho' your pleasant solitudes
Are stirred not by the eagle's wing,
Tho' on your silence ne'er intrudes
The vulture's bodeful clamouring,
Yet these were only discords here ;
For you the skylark's carolling,

Clear-ringing thro' the ether clear,
The lapwing's shrill misleading cry
 The treasure of its nest anear,
The thrush's sweet soliloquy, -
 The hawking swallow's vivid flight,
 Delightsome to the following sight
In its fleet-winding harmony
 As the lark's carol to the ear,
Make an accordant charm and cheer.
And tho' your smooth sides could afford
No shelter to the shy wild herd
Whose strength is in the mountain-rocks,
 Nor freedom for the ranging deer,
Yet sometimes here the fated fox,
 Quitting his covert, will appear ;
From your bright furze the rabbit slips,
And up your slopes the hare outstrips
The fleetest following, while, on high,
Poised in aërial mastery,
A hawk perchance hangs in mid-sky,
And in a still restraint doth keep
The flash of its descending sweep.

Or the lone-musing wanderer

Is startled by the sudden stir
Of partridge-wings, from heath or furze,
The swiftness of whose beating blurs
And rounds the bird in its rushing flight.
Or straying on from height to height,
In ways frequented not by man,
He comes where the wary and solemn clan
Of rooks, at even, from far and wide
Are gathered, on a green hillside,
In crowded congregation still;
How clear the air, how black the hill!
If chance his foot too near invade
Their privacy, how changed the scene,—
The blackened hill is bare and green,
And the air is dark with clamorous shade,
As thickly, with protesting cries,
They rise, and scatter as they rise.

Familiar heights! o'er you how oft
My feet have moved, well pleased to press
Your springy texture, firm and soft,
The antidote of weariness,—
Your turf made fine by wandering
Of frequent sheep, which, finding there

Fit nutriment of food and air,
Are reared amid your pasturing
To symmetry compact and fine ;—
See from afar (how fair the sight)
A hillside, with their scattered white,
In stationary patches strown
Of stillest life ; if given the sign,
Watched ever intently and well known,
The keen and shaggy sentinel
Breaks instantly the quiet spell,
Ranging and massing them at will,
Till, marshalled soon, the huddling crowd
Is sweeping, like a travelling cloud,
In swift procession down the hill.

And with what ever-fresh delight
The heart is lifted, as the eyes,
From some commanding beacon-height,
Range o'er the vision fair that lies
Where, far below, the vale extends
Till with the horizon-line it blends ;—
A fertile plain, pleasant with trees,
And halls, and spires, and villages ;
A land of natural repose

Where evenly life's current flows,
Where man and beast go on their way
Full leisurely, from day to day,
Working, like Nature, without haste,
Working, like her too, without waste ;

A quiet country that can please
The quiet soul that loves to stray
Mid its own land's fair scenery,
Nor greatly cares afar to roam,

Deeming it worth its while to see
What pleasant places are at home.

THE EARTH'S ASPIRING.

IN certain range
The antique earth, renewing evermore
Its mighty youth, speeds swiftly as of yore,
Thro' circling change

Of dark and bright,
Alternate majesty of glory and gloom,
Ever 'mid throbs of birth and throes of doom,
Blossom and blight ;

Impelled, controlled,
Sustained, restrained, and governed by that law,
Whose vast simplicity can overawe
The subtlest-souled.

But the dumb earth,
Tho' wearying not, is burdened and opprest,
Aspiring ever to the promised rest
Of its new birth ;

And travaileth,
Thro' ceaseless change wrought imperceptibly,
Fraught with deep instinct of the mystery
Of life through death ;

Till change at length
Thro' final fire purge all things mutable,
Destroying all that is destructible,
Then, in the strength

Of the Divine,
Made glorious in His glorious majesty,
The realm of righteousness immutably
Shall rise and shine ;

And the freed earth,
Delivered from its burden and its scourge,
Forth from its fiery trial shall emerge
In glad new birth.

IN MEMORIAM:
JAMES HANNINGTON.

1847-1885.

O FRIEND, revered, beloved,
By higher love removed,
In life's fair prime and in thy prime of power ;
Gone from thy loved employ
Into the Master's joy,
Summoned from toil even at the midday hour !

O brother, for I know
That all might call thee so,
Thine was the heart whose beat was brotherhood ;
Willing and well-content
To spend and to be spent
If so by any means some might find good !

O lofty, lowly heart,
Which evermore hadst part
In joy and sorrow of the strong and weak !
O pastor, skilled indeed
Duly the flock to lead,
But most intent afar the lost to seek !

O soldier of the Cross,
Counting as gain all loss
'To win men's hearts unto thy Captain's sway ;
Who in the glorious strife
Hast crowned a hero-life
With the pure crown that fadeth not away !

Though quenched that vigilant eye
Whose look was verity,
And passed the bright soul-utterance of that smile ;
And mute the eloquent lip,
And gone the stedfast grip
Of that true hand ;—though for a little while,

O brother, pastor, friend,
Friendship and love must bend
In sorrow at the stroke of thee removed,—
Yet these someday shall greet
Thee in the shining Street,
And thou wilt fully then be known and loved.

CHRISTMAS.

BEHOLD yon sleeping child—what seëst thou
So rudely cradled, yet with gentlest care?
With all heart-reverence in this presence bow,
The fulness of the Godhead nestles there !
Yea, even thus, in frailest, lowliest wise,
Is veiled the co-eternal Majesty ;
Look backward, and His glory quells thine eyes,
Lost in the fountain-light of Deity.
Look onward—see Him now a man o'erworn,
The garden sorrow—the most bitter tree ;
Look onward still—the resurrection morn,
The bright ascent—the glory yet to be
When, in the countless throng before His throne,
The meaning of this birth is fully shown.

A MIDNIGHT PRAYER.

ALAS, my God ! I hear the storming sea,
And the rough wind against my casement beats
The boisterous rain—alas ! it cannot be
But there are some whom this loud tempest greets
With imminent peril ; ay, belike even now
Some stricken vessel with the fury strives
Of wind and wave, leagued for her overthrow,
As heedless of all government she drives
On thro' the void of night. O Lord most High !
I pray Thee succour those who darkly rove
Unsuccoured else ; oh, let the mastery
Of wind and wave the mightier lordship prove
Of Thine abounding mercy ; hear, oh, hear,
And even for Christ's dear sake let these be dear !

THE BODY THAT SHALL BE.

BRIEF mortal prison-house, wherein I am pent,
Till death shall raze thee to thy native dust,
Fast-fettering power of frail environment,
Searched thro' and thrilled by many a painful gust,
How art thou fallen, fallen and inglorious !
Thy league is treacherous, thy friendship strange ;
Alas ! that sin should mar thine honour thus,
But Christ again shall change beyond all change—
And like His glorious body thou shalt be,
Perfect in lineaments of truth and grace ;
Thy discord shall be turned to harmony,
Thine eyes made pure to see Him face to face ;
O body of death, shalt thou be changèd so ?
Then, soul, what exaltation shalt thou know !

PEACE.

DEEP is the calm that broods o'er breezeless seas,
And fair the promise of unclouded skies ;
Fresh is the joyance of the spring-clad trees,
And mild and sweet are moonlight harmonies ;
But sounding strife shall rend the ocean's rest,
And clouds with stormful menace load the skies ;
Wild winds shall riot thro' the boughs undrest,
The muffled moon shall move in dim disguise.
Yea, heaven and earth shall change—shall pass away,
The elements shall melt, the sunlight die ;
But Thou, O Lord, remainest, and for aye
Thy perfect peace is ours ineffably ;
Tho' here bewildering storms assail our peace
Our souls are stedfast in thy stedfastness.

LAW AND GRACE.

ALL things are linked in continuity,
And on this base, with sure intelligence,
The mind of man, co-operant with his sense,
Constructs what has been from the things that be ;
The laws of life and growth, the tendency
Of good to higher good, of bad to worse, .
He finds unvarying,—blessing so and curse
Working thro' all with ceaseless agency.
O rigorous, righteous law ! tho' thou the weak
Dookest to suffering here and servitude,
A higher, larger law doth thee embrace ;
Tho' thou on us thy silent rigour wreak
Thou art the vassal of a perfect good,
Being made subject to the law of grace.

A MAN'S LIFE.

How human life swarms o'er the populous earth !

How thickly wave the ever-ripening fields

For the grim lord, whose fatal harvest yields

A sure-recurring crop that knows no dearth !

Can there be aught of ever-during worth

In that which comes in thousands with each hour

And goes in thousands ; comes devoid of power

And so departs, naked in death and birth ?

True, life seems common, summed in aggregate,

Or ranged in ranks of average, yet how dear

Is each existence, linked yet isolate,

Its action, joy, and passion, hope and fear,

Its growth and shaping for its true estate,

Here unapparent, in the eternal sphere.

THE WORLD-SORROW.

THE world is mournful with perpetual pain ;
In murmured grief or lamentation loud
It rises ever from the incessant crowd,
Which, like a river hastening to the main,
Hastens to unknown death. The solemn strain
Changes but rises still, no rest allowed,
For as one race is veiled beneath the shroud
A new procession doth anew complain.
Alas ! no human power can give relief
To human sorrow, or can lift the weight
From the world's heart ; but One enthroned with
God,
Erewhile a man of sorrows, versed in grief,
Knows all the heaviness of thine estate,
Go thou to Him and ease thee of thy load.

DREAM-LIFE.

'Tis good to wander in the tranquil-souled
Region of dreams, wherein who wandereth
Findeth a realm unswayed by time or death,
Where from the prisoning cave the stone is rolled,
And the loved lost, whom love again doth hold,
Seem as they seemed when warm with kindred
breath ;

With new delight we hearken what each saith,
Yet naught is strange, for all is as of old.
With such dear bliss mortals are sometimes blest
While the tired body slumbers, and meanwhile
The brain moves in harmonious unrest,
Not knowing that it doth itself beguile ;
Raising anew the past with subtle quest
Till reason, waking, mars the ærial pile.

THE SAFEGUARD.

A THREEFOLD league of sleepless enemies
Assault, with various siege of force and guile,
The Christian warrior, and would make him vile ;
The pride of life, the lust of the heart and eyes,
World, flesh, and devil, with all their subtleties,
To make him captive blend their every wile ;
Their peace is only peril, and their smile
Covers their ambushed hate with smooth disguise.
Yet faint not, fear not, thou, whom these surround !
Thou shalt endure unconquered to the end,
A mightier power thy menaced soul doth keep ;
In that great Captain is thy safety found
Whose also are thy foes ; He is thy friend,
And so befriended thou may'st wake and sleep.

LOVE'S ECLIPSE.

AH, wherefore dost Thou weep over the doom
Of the false city, Thou who dost foreknow
The breaking of that storm, which, gathering slow,
Shall in its righteous ruin all entomb?
Why weepest Thou over that wrath to come?
Is it not weak to mourn the inevitable?
Shall not the God within Thee calmly quell
The futile sorrow that but deepens gloom?
Yet still, unstayed, the sacred depths o'erflow,
O grief of tears, those grief-lined cheeks that kiss!
O Love unknown, 'tis meet that Thou shouldst know
All sorrow, and what sorrow equals this
Of love contemned and foiled; when, in the abyss
Of failure, love is swallowed up of woe?

SEA-CHANGES.

WHAT various charm is in the voiceful sea !

Or when, bright-gleaming 'neath the gleaming skies,
Bluer than these the sparkling presence lies,
Lapped in mild beauty and serenity ;—

Or when, responsive to the mastery
Of the loud-summoning wind, deep unto deep
Resoundeth, and the rhythmic grandeurs sweep,
Swayed by the force that wakens and sets free,
Yet holds fast ever, their majestic might ;—

Or, when the shifting clouds make light and shade,
Beneath the skyey change the varying green
Here grave and dark appears, there light and bright,
Fair contrast, fairer by the whiteness made
Of foamy crests that fade and grow between.

CLOUD-HARMONIES.

'Tis sweet to watch the great cloud-harmonies ;—
A glory of white now massed on the clear blue,
Or severed into filmy fields that strew
With happy mingling of delight the skies ;—
Or, when the wild-winged wind audibly flies,
O'er all the heaven the lightsome masses range,
O'ersweeping with the shadow of their change
Hill, vale, and plain ; or when to the rapt eyes
Revealed in sunset grandeur, pile on pile
Impregned with fire, loom lustrous and serene,
Or in the lucid west the pure pale green
Is glorified with many a golden isle ;
The passing beauty of things seen awhile
Seeming to lift the veil of things unseen.

MILTON.

NATURE hath many voices—carollings
Of morning, and her vesper-melody ;
The wind's presageful gloom and light-winged glee,
The thunder, making mute all living things ;
The voice of torrent-floods, the whisperings
Of ocean, and his sounding sovereignty,
All tones of menace and authority,
And gentle speech, and pleasant promisings,
Are Nature's ; and she sought to gather each
In one imperial voice, whose utterance sure
Her heights and depths of various sound should reach ;
So Milton was, whose empire shall endure
While there is any power in perfect speech
To sway men's spirits with dominion pure.

*ON A SKYLARK FOUND DEAD IN
THE SNOW.*

SWEET singer, who didst ever sing aright,
Thrilling with swift aerial melody
The circuit wide ; alas, that thou shouldst die
In silent darkness, laureate of the light !
How memory's sunshine saddens at thy blight !
Like a wild streamlet, by the winter stricken,
Which the cold sunlight vainly strives to quicken,
So thy clear-flowing joy is frozen quite.
When other birds were seeking other Spring
Why didst thou tarry 'mid the landscape lone ?
These shall return with the new blossoming ;
Ah, would that thou, beloved, too hadst gone !
So hadst thou risen again on rested wing,
And told anew thy sweet tale to the dawn.

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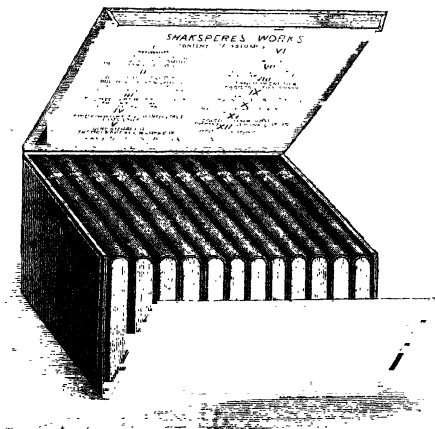
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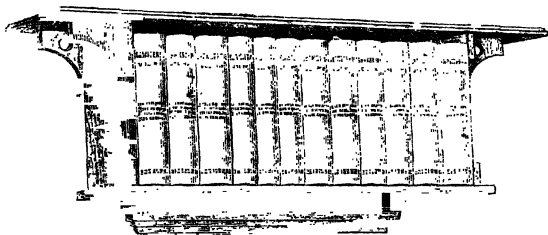
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Salar. My wind, cooling my broth,
Would blow me to an ague, when I thought
What harm a wind too great might do at sea:
I should not see the sandy hour-glass run
But I should think of shallows and of flats,
And see my wealthy Andrew dock'd in sand,
Vailing her high-top lower than her ribs
To kiss her burial. Should I go to church
And see the holy edifice of stone,
And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,
Which touching but my gentle vessel's side,
Would scatter all her spices on the stream,
Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks,
And, in a word, but even now worth this,
And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought
To think on this, and shall I lack the thought
That such a thing bechanc'd would make me sad?
But tell not me: I know Antonio
Is sad to think upon his merchandise.

Ant. Believe me, no: I thank my fortune for it,
My ventures are not in one bottom trusted,
Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate
Upon the fortune of this present year:
Therefore my merchandise makes me not sad.

Salar. Why, then you are in love.

Ant.

Fie, fie!

Salar. Not in love neither? Then let us say you
are sad,

Because you are not merry; and 'twere as easy
For you to laugh, and leap, and say you are merry,
Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed
Janus,

Nature hath fram'd strange fellows in her time:
Some that will evermore peep through their eyes
And laugh like parrots at a bag-piper;
And other of such vinegar aspect

